

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5. (New) A method for producing an electric power steering apparatus assisting steering by transmitting the drive power of a motor via a small gear provided on the output shaft of said motor and a large gear meshed with said small gear to a steering shaft provided with said large gear, and comprising first and second housings accommodating said steering shaft and said output shaft, said second housing being mounted on said first housing; comprising the steps of:

temporarily mounting said second housing on said first housing in the state that the mounting position of said second housing with respect to said first housing is aligned at a predetermined position using a positioning unit that aligns said second housing at said predetermined position;

providing steering shaft supporting sections that support said steering shaft and output shaft supporting sections that support said output shaft in nearly parallel with said steering shaft for said first housing and said second housing respectively;

removing said second housing from said first housing;

supporting said steering shaft and said output shaft using said steering shaft supporting sections and said output shaft supporting sections via bearings; and

mounting said second housing on said first housing by aligning said second housing at said predetermined position using said positioning unit.

6. (New) The method for producing said electric power steering apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said positioning unit comprises two sets of pin holes provided in said

first housing and said second housing respectively and two pins to be engaged with said pin holes.

7. (New) The method for producing said electric power steering apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said pin holes are tapered holes, and said pins are tapered pins.

8. (New) The method for producing said electric power steering apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

the center distance between said output shaft and said steering shaft is 35 mm or more and 85 mm or less,

in said small gear, the number of teeth is 6 or more and 15 or less, the module is 0.8 or more and 1.5 or less, the tooth depth is 2.4 times the module or less, the pressure angle is 20 degrees or more and 27 degrees or less, and the helix angle is 20 degrees or more and 40 degrees or less, and

the tooth profile of one or both of said small gear and said large gear is formed so that the pressure angle increases in the direction from the addendum to the dedendum of the gear, and an involute gear subjected to crowning in the tooth trace direction is used for one or both of said small gear and said large gear.

9. (New) A method for producing an electric power steering apparatus assisting steering by transmitting the drive power of a motor via a small gear provided on the output shaft of said motor and a large gear meshed with said small gear to a steering shaft provided with said large gear, and comprising first and second housings accommodating

said steering shaft and said output shaft, said second housing being mounted on said first housing; comprising the steps of:

temporarily mounting said second housing on said first housing in the state that the mounting position of said second housing with respect to said first housing is aligned at a predetermined position using positioning means that aligns said second housing at said predetermined position;

providing steering shaft supporting sections that support said steering shaft and output shaft supporting sections that support said output shaft in nearly parallel with said steering shaft for said first housing and said second housing respectively;

removing said second housing from said first housing;

supporting said steering shaft and said output shaft using said steering shaft supporting sections and said output shaft supporting sections via bearings; and

mounting said second housing on said first housing by aligning said second housing at said predetermined position using said positioning means.

10. (New) The method for producing said electric power steering apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said positioning means comprises two sets of pin holes provided in said first housing and said second housing respectively and two pins to be engaged with said pin holes.

11. (New) The method for producing said electric power steering apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said pin holes are tapered holes, and said pins are tapered pins.

12. (New) The method for producing said electric power steering apparatus according to claim 9, wherein

the center distance between said output shaft and said steering shaft is 35 mm or more and 85 mm or less,

in said small gear, the number of teeth is 6 or more and 15 or less, the module is 0.8 or more and 1.5 or less, the tooth depth is 2.4 times the module or less, the pressure angle is 20 degrees or more and 27 degrees or less, and the helix angle is 20 degrees or more and 40 degrees or less, and

the tooth profile of one or both of said small gear and said large gear is formed so that the pressure angle increases in the direction from the addendum to the dedendum of the gear, and an involute gear subjected to crowning in the tooth trace direction is used for one or both of said small gear and said large gear.